



## ***The Ascension of the Lord***

**May 20 / 21, 2023**

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### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**St. Boniface:**

***Saturday***

**5:00 pm**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

***Sunday:***

**8:30 am Confession**

**9:00 am Mass**

***Tuesday & Thursday:***

**5:30 pm**

***Bible Study***

**Thursday 8:00 pm**

***(will resume  
in August)***

**Mission Statement:** We are a welcoming parish of Roman Catholic Christians with diverse roots deep in Appalachia and beyond. We are committed to growing in our faith and community through our worship and celebrations, with particular attention to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and The Holy Eucharist. We are a community gathered together by the Holy Spirit, filled with hope, to love and serve God and neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ; and through our sharing of Good News in word and deed, we seek to live and reveal to all the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.





[Jesus said], “You will receive power  
when the holy Spirit comes upon  
you, and you will be my witnesses...  
to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

## Power Unmasked

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**hen the Lone Ranger and Tonto rode across our TV screens in days of old, someone would often ask, “Who was that masked man?” Folks never learned his identity, and it didn’t matter. For that man had saved them from evil, restoring their lives. In a sense, the Ranger, with Tonto, had passed on to them the power to live safely and productively.

As he was about to return to his Father, the risen Lord said to the apostles, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Yet being blessed with the power that raised the Lord Jesus does not always feel much like a blessing. At times it can feel more like a burden that falls upon our shoulders, one to heal and mend as we try to bring peace and a better world. We wonder why we always must be the one who says, “I’m sorry.” Why must we always be the one who plans the evening out or writes the Christmas cards or calls Mom or spends time with the children or listens to someone’s tale of woe? Yet such is the power of Jesus for bringing about healing to both spirits and bodies, for creating joy, for designing bridges into the hearts of others, all because the Messiah rode off on a cloud of silver to be welcomed to the right hand of God. Thus, he empowers us. ●

### Reflect

***Have you ever been surprised by the good God has brought about through you?***

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<i>May 20 / 21</i> <b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>	<b>8:30 am ~ Confession</b> <b>9:00 am ~ Mass</b> <i>Graduate Blessing</i>	<b>5:00 pm ~ Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>NO Mass</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mass ~ 5:30 pm</b>	
<i>May 27 / 28</i> <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am ~ Confession</b> <b>9:00 am ~ Mass</b>	<b>5:00 pm ~ Mass</b>

	<i>OLPH</i> <i>Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE</i> <i>Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>May 21</b>	<b>May 28</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 27</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Hannah Steen	Monica Soliz	Jerry Nowak	Mary Jo Leygraaf
<b>Server</b>	Joe McNaughton	Joe McNaughton		

<b>Mass Intentions</b>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>St. Boniface</i>
<b>May 20 / 21</b>	Our Graduates	Delmatto Family
<b>May 27 / 28</b>	Heyward McCowan Tibbs, Jr	Heyward McCowan Tibbs, Jr

<b>Our Gifts</b>	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>St. Boniface</b>
<b>May 13 / 14</b>	\$140.00	\$60.00

*May God bless you for your generous contributions  
to our Church!*

*Congratulations to Morgan, Gavin & Garrett on their recent graduations.  
May God guide your footsteps as you embark on this next phase of life.*



# The Ascension of the Lord

## Reading 1

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus,  
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught  
until the day he was taken up,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
He presented himself alive to them  
by many proofs after he had suffered,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
While meeting with them,  
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for "the promise of the Father  
about which you have heard me speak;  
for John baptized with water,  
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him,  
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"  
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons  
that the Father has established by his own authority.  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
throughout Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth."  
When he had said this, as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.  
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,  
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.  
They said, "Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

## **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

***God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

All you peoples, clap your hands,  
shout to God with cries of gladness,  
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,  
is the great king over all the earth.

***God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;  
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.  
Sing praise to God, sing praise;  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

***God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

For king of all the earth is God;  
sing hymns of praise.  
God reigns over the nations,  
God sits upon his holy throne.

***God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.***

## **Reading 2**

Eph 1:17-23

Brothers and sisters:  
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation  
resulting in knowledge of him.  
May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,

that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,  
what are the riches of glory  
in his inheritance among the holy ones,  
and what is the surpassing greatness of his power  
for us who believe,  
in accord with the exercise of his great might,  
which he worked in Christ,  
raising him from the dead  
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,  
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,  
and every name that is named  
not only in this age but also in the one to come.  
And he put all things beneath his feet  
and gave him as head over all things to the church,  
which is his body,  
the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

### **Alleluia**

Mt 28:19a, 20b

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

### **Gospel**

Mt 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,  
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.  
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.  
Then Jesus approached and said to them,  
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

## **REFLECTION**

The Evangelist concludes his Gospel with the brief scene of the Ascension. The parting words of Jesus emphasize the importance of all his teaching. And these words have produced an incalculable effect on the life of the Church. Jesus offers a world-wide vision of his Church. This has sent his disciples to all nations, bearing the message of salvation. The last words of Jesus contain a claim, a commission and a promise:

The claim: “All authority in heaven and earth is given to me.” It means he has the supreme right to appoint to office, and so the disciples are entrusted with the mission. It means that he has the right to require obedience because of his love poured out unto death, and now triumphant in the eternal Kingdom. The great commission: The disciples are commissioned to teach, to carry the message of love to all nations. The message of God’s love is for the whole world and for all ages. And the disciples are entrusted with the job of reaching it everywhere.

The renowned preacher Flor McCarthy narrates an interesting story that refers to a scene in heaven as Jesus returned after his death and resurrection. The Archangel Gabriel was surprised to see him back so soon. Thirty-three years were too little to finish his task on earth.

“Back so soon?” asked Gabriel to Jesus. “Well, I would have stayed longer but they crucified me,” replied Jesus. “Oh, so they crucified you,” said Gabriel. “That means you failed.” “Not necessarily,” said Jesus. “You see I called together a little group of disciples. They will carry on my work.” “And what if they should fail?” asked Gabriel. “I have no other plans,” Jesus answered. Indeed, the responsibility of completing the work of Jesus falls on the disciples, then and now. He has made a promise. He the Lord will work with us. It is a very close collaboration that the Lord is asking of us. But one thing is sure; we cannot be his disciples unless we are willing to collaborate.

The Ascension of Jesus is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not mean that with his Ascension he has gone away from the earth. It means rather that he is now constantly present everywhere on earth. During his earthly ministry he could only be present in one place at a time. If he was in Jerusalem he was not in Capernaum. But now that he is united with God, he is present wherever God is present; and that is everywhere.

As he commanded that little band of eleven men on a Galilean hillside Two thousand years ago, he commands us today. He gives us the same assurance that he gave to the eleven apostles that he will be with us always. This assurance should give us courage and strength to face whatever difficulties that lie ahead.

## **UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS**

*Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious*

May 22

*Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church;  
Saint Gregory VII, Pope; Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin*

May 25

*Saint Philip Neri, Priest ~ Memorial*

May 26

*Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop*

May 27

### ***For these we pray***

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family,



Shawn Lee Day, Judy Delisle, Dal Macon, Linda Mills, Judy Patrick, Bob and Marie Alvaro, JoAnn Brown, Cathy Sims, Robert Moses, Kristina Neitsch, Danny Ezell, Yvonne Laschon, Iva Lee Hamblin, Gilbert Steely, Ella Johnson, Garrett Moore and Todd Moore.

Mass intentions in memory or honor of someone are a beautiful tribute representing the love and admiration you have for them and the impact they made in your life. Whether you have lost someone or want to support a person in your life, this special mass intention invites peace and the love of God into them. It is a way for you to bring joy into their soul and heart. If you would like to schedule a Mass for a loved one, please contact Father Lobo or the office.





# Dear Padre,

## Why should I be confirmed?

In baptism, God calls you to be a priest, prophet and king. In confirmation, you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live out those vocations. A priest offers prayer and sacrifice. In confirmation, you are moved to make your everyday life a sacrifice that you join to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (Romans 12:1). *Prophet* is from *prophētēs*, a Greek word meaning “spokesperson.” In confirmation, you are compelled to preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16), just as the apostles were when they received the Holy Spirit on the original day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2–4). When you were baptized, you were made a member of the royal family of God (1 Peter 2:9). Just as Jesus showed what it means to be a Servant King, so are we called to serve others in love. In confirmation, we are inspired by the love that God pours into us in his Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

In his first public preaching, Jesus quoted from Isaiah the prophet: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me” (Luke 4:18). That was the beginning of his public ministry. When the bishop anoints you with chrism, you can say the same. Your confirmation is the beginning of your own public ministry. ●



### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*A disciple follows the Master daily and shares the joy of discipleship with others. Not by conquering, mandating, proselytizing, but by witnessing, humbling oneself alongside other disciples and offering with love the love that we ourselves received. This is our mission...to show by our lives...that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone.*

HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 20, 2019

CNS PHOTO/GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE, REUTERS



**Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

#### MONDAY

May 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 19:1–8  
Jn 16:29–33

#### TUESDAY

May 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:17–27  
Jn 17:1–11a

#### WEDNESDAY

May 24  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:28–38  
Jn 17:11b–19

#### THURSDAY

May 25  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 22:30; 23:6–11  
Jn 17:20–26

#### FRIDAY

May 26  
St. Philip Neri, Priest  
Acts 25:13b–21  
Jn 21:15–19

#### SATURDAY

May 27  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 28:16–20, 30–31  
Jn 21:20–25

#### SUNDAY

May 28  
Pentecost  
Acts 2:1–11  
1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13  
Jn 20:19–23